

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XII

MARCH 2024

No. 3

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, 21 March 2024**. In the morning, there will be a seminar as a program for the year of Prayer 2024 at Anugraha for all priests on the theme: the dogmatic constitution *Dei Verbum* by Rev. Fr Joseph Titus, Head of the Department of Biblical Theology, St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. The registration will be at 09.30 am and the session will be held from 10.00 am to 01.00 pm with a break in between and will end with fraternal lunch. In the afternoon, tea will be served at 03.30 pm at Milagres Tri-centenary Hall and the Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 04.00 pm in Milagres Cathedral. I invite all priests, diocesan and religious, to concelebrate with me as a sign of our priestly unity and solidarity as *unum presbyterium*. It is also the Day of Priests. I request all Parish Priests to announce to your parishioners regarding the Chrism Mass and its importance and invite them to participate in large numbers, and also to pray for all priests rendering their pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Udupi.

2. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The theme for the International Women's Day, 08 March 2024 (IWD 2024) is **Inspire Inclusion**. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. When women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. Collectively, let's forge a more inclusive world for women.

On an organizational or group basis, there are many ways to ensure the needs, interests, and aspirations of women and girls so that they are valued and included. Organizations and groups can **#InspireInclusion** through action in areas such as:

- forging women’s economic empowerment.
- recruiting, retaining, and developing female talent.
- supporting women and girls in leadership, decision-making, etc.
- designing and building infrastructure meeting the needs of women and girls.
- helping women and girls make informed decisions about their health.
- involving women and girls in sustainable agriculture and food security.
- providing women and girls with access to quality education and training.
- elevating women and girls’ participation and achievement in sports.
- promoting creative and artistic talent of women and girls.
- addressing further areas supporting the advancement of women and girls.

With a grateful heart, I sincerely thank and appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in all parishes of our Diocese. I offer my warm greetings to all women of our Diocese and wish them divine blessings on the occasion. May this day be an occasion for us to recognize the contribution of women in the Church and offer them opportunities to grow and express themselves freely in the mission of the Church.

3. DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING – 22 MARCH 2024

Through the final statement of its recently concluded biennial meeting, the CBCI has asked that each Diocese observes **Friday, 22 March 2024 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting** for peace and harmony in our country. I request all parish priests and superiors of religious institutes and societies of apostolic life to observe this day as a day of prayer and

fasting in your parishes and houses respectively. As part of this prayer, I urge all parish priests to organize a one-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Way of the Cross, and the Holy Eucharist in all parishes. Kindly invite the parishioners to participate in large numbers and to pray for our country so that religious harmony may prevail. Let's also pray for the upcoming general elections 2024.

4. MESSAGE OF THE 36TH GENERAL BODY MEETING OF CBCI

The 36th General Body meeting of the CBCI was held in St John's, Bangalore from 31 January to 07 February 2024 on the theme "Church's Response to the Current Socio-Political Situation in the Country and the Benefits and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence."

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS OF CBCI

The CBCI reelected Abp. Mar Andrews Thazhath of Trichur as its President, Abp. Geroge Antonysamy as its first Vice President and Bp. Joseph Mar Thomas of Bathery as its second Vice President. Abp. Anil Couto of Delhi as its Secretary General. The elections, held on 06 February 2024, marked a significant moment for the CBCI as it continues to address pertinent issues facing the Church and society. Abp. George Antonysamy of Madras Mylapore is also the Vice President of the CCBI and Abp. Anil Couto of Delhi is also the Secretary General of the CCBI. We offer our warmest felicitations and hearty congratulations to all office bearers on their re-election and wish them prayerful support in their responsibilities.

6. PASCAL TRIDUUM AND HAPPY EASTER

After 40 days of Lenten prayer, fasting, penance, and almsgiving, the Holy Mother the Church invites us to rejoice at the solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Holy Week the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his earthly life, from his messianic entry into Jerusalem until his blessed Passion and glorious resurrection. The feast of Easter is the

culmination of the season of Lent and particularly the Holy Week. I urge all parish priests to plan and prepare well for the Holy Week with due attention to the liturgical guidelines given for this week as found on pages 89-109 of the *ORDO* 2023-24 so that the faithful may be able to conclude their Lenten exercises with the experience of the peace and joy of the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

I wish you all a happy Easter, dear Rev. Fathers and Sisters. May the risen lord fill us all with new hope in our personal life as well as in our ministry in parishes and institutions.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

OBITUARY

Mr John Pinto (83 Yrs), F/o Rev. Fr Praveen Pinto, OCD, Parish Priest, St Antony Church, Koteswar, passed away on 10 February 2024 and the funeral was held on 11 February 2024 at St Joseph the Worker Church, Vamanjoor (Mangalore Diocese).

**MAY GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST.
WE OFFER OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO
DEAR REV. FATHER.**

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR BEC's

- 03.03.2024 - Karkal Deanery *Preraks*' Training Program from 03.00 to 5.30 pm at Miyar
- 17.03.2024 - Kallianpur Deanery *Preraks*' Training Program from 03.00 to 5.30 pm at Milages Cathedral
- 19.03.2024 - BEC's Training program at Milagres Church, Mangalore from 05.30 to 8.00 pm

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

2. FAMILY COMMISSION

- 02 Mar 'You are Loved' - Christian Life Seminar by MFC, Mangalore Diocese.
- 03 Mar Marriage Enrichment Programme, Kallianpur Deanery
- 10 Mar Marriage Enrichment Programme, Karkal Deanery 15 Mar Senior Citizens' Club diocese level Pilgrimage at St Lawrence Basilica, Attur
- 17 Mar Marriage Enrichment Programme, Kundapur Deanery
- 20 Mar Karnataka Region Family Commission Directors' meet
- 23-24 Mar Marriage Preparation Course
- 30 Mar *Saireek Sangam* Diocese level meet

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

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